

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A pregel composition which, when added to an organic electrolyte solution of an electrolyte salt in a nonaqueous solvent, causes the solution to gel and form a polymer gel electrolyte; wherein the composition has a moisture content, as determined by Karl Fischer titration, of not more than 100 ±,000 ppm.

2. (original) The pregel composition of claim 1 which contains at least one substance capable of reacting to form the polymer gel electrolyte.

3. (original) The pregel composition of claim 1 which contains at least one compound having a reactive double bond.

4. (original) The pregel composition of claim 1 which contains at least one linear or branched polymeric compound and a compound having a reactive double bond.

5. (original) The pregel composition of claim 1 which contains at least one isocyanate compound.

6. (original) The pregel composition of claim 1 which is prepared by azeotropic distillation in the presence of an entrainer that is the nonaqueous solvent in the organic electrolyte solution.

7. (original) A method of dehydrating a pregel composition which, when added to an organic electrolyte solution of an electrolyte salt in a nonaqueous solvent, causes the solution to gel and form a polymer gel electrolyte,

the method comprising the step of subjecting the pregel composition to azeotropic distillation in the presence of an entrainer that is the nonaqueous solvent in the organic electrolyte solution, for thereby lowering the moisture content of the pregel composition, as determined by Karl Fischer titration, to not more than 1,000 ppm.

8. (original) A secondary cell comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode and an electrolyte, wherein the electrolyte is a polymer gel electrolyte prepared by adding the pregel composition of any one of claims 1 to 6 to an organic electrolyte solution of an electrolyte salt in a nonaqueous solvent, thereby inducing gelation.

9. (Original) An electrical double-layer capacitor comprising an electrolyte between a pair of polarizable electrodes, wherein the electrolyte is a polymer gel electrolyte prepared by adding the pregel composition of any one of claims 1 to 6 to an organic electrolyte solution of an electrolyte salt in a nonaqueous solvent, thereby inducing gelation.

10. (new) The pregel composition of claim 3, wherein the compound having a reactive double bond is a polyoxyalkylene component-bearing unsaturated compound in which a urethane group does not exist.

11. (new) The pregel composition of claim 4, wherein the linear or branched polymeric compound is one type of polymer selected from the class consisting of (a) a hydroxyalkyl polysaccharide derivative, (b) a polyvinyl alcohol derivative and (c) a polyglycidol derivative.